

Dear Tennis Supporter,

## **Have your say on the future of tennis in Nelson City – deadline May 8**

This is your chance to tell the Council how important the further development of the Nelson Community Tennis Centre complex at Rutherford Park is to our community.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Nelson City Council and the Nelson Lawn Tennis Club redeveloped 8 hard courts at Rutherford Park in 2007. This was the first stage of 12 court joint venture complex. Council have provisionally set aside \$218,000 toward the 4 court expansion in the Draft Nelson Community Plan for the 2012-2013 year. The Club will be making a submission to the Draft Plan supporting the retention of this funding.

Last year the club made submissions to the 2009-2010 Annual Plan for council to commit \$60,000 toward flood lights the courts. Unfortunately this was not included in the Draft Nelson Community Plan, so the club will also be submitting for inclusion of funding for lights in the 2009 -2010 year.

The first stage of the redevelopment has resulted in a huge uplift in participation by the public and club members, Club membership increasing from under 100 to just under 400 in 2 seasons! In the existing form, the courts are not catering for current demand. We need to find ways to extend availability of the courts. Floodlighting is the first step to extend play at night and during the winter. The second stage, 4 court extension is necessary to cater for current peak and future growth.

In brief, future development plans include

- Outdoor seating and shade sails – designed with grateful assistance from Rory Langbridge, the club is currently working on funding this \$15,000 enhancement to be constructed on the paved area adjacent to the courts.
- Lighting – Flood lighting the existing 8 court development - estimated \$100,000.
- Extension - 4 court expansion –estimated \$400,000
- Surfaces – All weather surfaces to all courts - \$ unknown
- Clubrooms – enhancement to joint Clubrooms with Squash - \$ unknown

In June councillors will hear submissions on the Plan and make the final decisions on future spending on the Centre. It is important we communicate very clearly to councillors just how further development of this modern and exciting tennis facility is to our community.

We invite you, members of your family and friends to make your own public submission to council telling them

- how successful the first stage of this development has been,
- the benefits you have experienced and
- just how important it is for council commit funds to assisting with flood lighting the courts and to retain the funding provision for the 4 court extension.

**WHAT YOU NEED TO DO**

We've attached your council submission sheet – all you have to do is fill in the details and then write and attach your letter and post it to address indicated. If you'd prefer we can organise collecting and submitting the letter on your behalf.

Attached you will find a number of key points that we hope will help you when considering the impact these submissions will personally have on you and our community.

There is also a sample letter referencing to the appropriate part of the Draft Plan.

**AN INVITATION**

Thank you for taking the time to complete your submission. Please feel free to join us at the public hearings later in June when the Club will present its submission to Council. If you would like to speak in support of your submission please check the box on your council submission form.

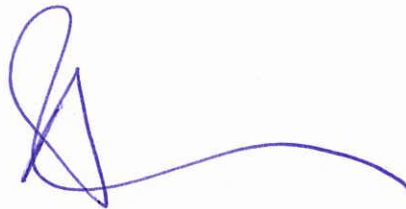
If you would like any more information regarding the future development of the courts, or anything about submitting your letter of support please call Ian McKeage on 548 0899, Sue Rooney on 546 7206 or Lynnne Nevin on 5470971.

The full Club submission will be available to view on the website from 30 April.

[www.nelsontennis.co.nz](http://www.nelsontennis.co.nz)



**Susan Rooney**  
CLUB PRESIDENT  
NELSON LAWN TENNIS CLUB



**Ian McKeage**  
COMMITTEE MEMBER  
NELSON LAWN TENNIS CLUB

**A tip on your submission.**

It's important councillors can read photocopies of your letter. If you prefer to handwrite your letter please write clearly with a dark black or blue pen.



**SOME REASONS TO SUPPORT THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NELSON COMMUNITY TENNIS CENTRE****TENNIS IS FOR EVERYBODY**

Whether you are 5 or 95 years old, tennis can be enjoyed competitively or socially by a huge range of people. It is one of the few family sports where parents can actively play a game with their children, and where men and women of all ages can compete and socialise together.

**MODERN FACILITIES MOTIVATE PARTICIPATION**

Good, inviting facilities motivate and encourage active participation in regular competition and community events. The complete development of this exciting modern facility will further energise the community to grow a broad base of tennis players, both young and old. An active community is a strong one.

**NEW AND EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES FOR JUNIOR PLAYERS**

Tennis is excellent for generating physical and mental wellbeing in our children. This community facility promises longer and better access for children to the benefits of tennis but is now constrained in capacity to provide for current demand. Without floodlights junior programmes can not be run all year round.

**EASIER AND BETTER PUBLIC ACCESS TO COURTS**

Floodlighting and the eventual second stage 4 court expansion will greatly extend court availability and playability.

**ADD TO NELSON'S SENSE OF SPORTING AND CIVIC WELLBEING**

A complete tennis facility in the heart of Nelson City will add significantly to a sense that Nelson's is a burgeoning and vibrant community, especially to sporting participants and visitors to the city. Synergies created with other modernisation projects in the park, will greatly enhance the social value of this central block of public land.

# SAMPLE LETTER ONLY

This letter can be as long or as short as you like.

To: Nelson City Councillors  
Re: The Park Tennis Centre  
Section: Parks and Open Space (p142) Draft Nelson Community Plan  
From: Shonky Serve

Dear Councillors,

My children participated in a junior coaching programme run by the Nelson Lawn Tennis club. This rekindled my interest in the sport and I consequently and am now back actively playing socially with other mums at the club every week.

Some of my friends are members and other friends are not but can access the courts by the \$4 entry fee per court.

We have found this facility and the support programmes offered by the club fantastic. My kids can bike or walk down after school. Our family can play socially or join organised social or competitive events. It is really great as this is one of the few games we can play with just the four of us and when we like.

We would like continue playing tennis during the winter however it gets dark early and there are no lights.

We fully support the Clubs submission to the Draft Plan for funding toward floodlights and ask the Council to retain the development of the next 4 courts Draft Nelson Community Plan.

Yours sincerely,  
Shonky Serve & Family